

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-02 PER-05 A-01 ABF-01 SS-20

IO-14 DRC-01 RSC-01 (ISO) W
----- 039536

R 041100Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7926

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 908

FOR AF/EX - BRADFORD FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF MSG

REF: STATE 76352

1. PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH SENIOR VOLTAN OFFICIALS HAS SHOWN THAT ASSIGNMENT MSG TO OUAGADOUGOU WILL BE MET BY SOME DISPLEASURE AND TOTAL LACK OF COMPREHENSION ON BEHALF GOUV OFFICIALS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE CONSIDERED RIDICULOUS BY ALL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY GOUV WOULD REFUSE TO PERMIT MARINES; WE BELIEVE GOUV WOULD ACQUIESCE IN USG DECISION ON WHETHER TO HAVE MSG. BUT IT WOULD LEAVE POOR TASTE IN SOME MOUTHS.

2. WE FULLY AGREE THAT EVERY PRUDENT MEASURE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE OPTIMUM SECURITY POSTURE IN VIEW OF WORLDWIDE TERRORIST THREAT. IF I BELIEVED PRESENCE OF MARINE GUARDS AT CHANCERY WOULD ENHANCE THIS POSTURE, I WOULD RECOMMEND IT DESPITE LOCAL MISCOMPREHENSION. REGRETTABLY, SUCH IS NOT THE CASE. IF TERRORIST ACT SHOULD OCCUR AGAINST USG PERSONNEL IN OUAGADOUGOU, IT WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY OCCUR AT A RESIDENCE, WHILE DRIVING AROUND TOWN, AT SOCIAL EVENT OR AT ATHLETIC EVENT (E.G. TENNIS COURT), IN ABOUT THAT ORDER. COMSEQUENTLY MSG AT CHANCERY--THE POINT OF LEAST
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LIKELIHOOD FOR TERRORIST ACTION -- IS NOT A PRUDENT

MEASURE; IT IS JUST A WASTE.

3. MUST IN ADDITION MENTION THAT PRESENCE OF THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL AMERICANS INVOLVED WOULD NECESSITATE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AMERICAN GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER TO THE EMBASSY.

4. IN REVIEWING ADEQUACY OF PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORIST THREAT, WE HAVE CONSIDERED OTHER POSSIBLE MEASURES INCLUDING (A) CONSTRUCTING FORTIFIED RESIDENT(S), (B) STATIONING ARMED VOLTAN POLICEMAN AT AMBASSADOR AND DCM RESIDENCES (AT USG EXPENSE), AND (C) HIRING ARMED BODYGUARD TO ACCOMPANY AMBASSADOR WHEREVER HE GOES. BELIEVE (B) IS ONLY STEP WHICH MAY HAVE MERIT. HOWEVER, SUGGEST DETAILED CONSIDERATION THIS IDEA BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN OUAGADOUGOU AND CAN CONSIDER SITUATION ON THE SPOT FOR HIMSELF.

5. WE HAVE REVIEWED SECURITY NEEDS JOINTLY WITH RSO, AND HAVE CONCURRED IN ORDERING VARIOUS DEVICES FOR EMBASSY/OUAGA INCLUDING MACE, TEARGAS, AUTO BURGLAR ALARMS, RESIDENCE ALARMS, BOMB BLANKET AND METAL DETECTOR. BELIEVE THESE ITEMS WILL FILL AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU'S REALISTIC SECURITY NEEDS. BULLEN

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